

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

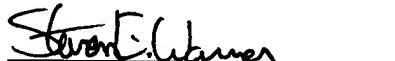
The specification has been amended to correct its divisional status. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 12 and 25-35 are presented for consideration. Claims 1, 12, 26 and 31 are independent. Applicant submits that these claims patentably define features of the subject invention.

Applicant further submits that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early passage to issue are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Application No. 09/940,461  
Attorney Docket No. 862.2746 D1

## APPENDIX A

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, before line 7, insert the following paragraph in lieu of the paragraph submitted in the Preliminary Amendment filed August 29, 2001:

-- This application is a divisional of copending U.S. Application No.  
09/276,834, filed March 26, 1999. [This application is a divisional of copending U.S.  
Application No. 09/279,834, filed March 26, 1999.] --

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